

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence derived from SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 6, 8 or 10.
2. The polypeptide of claim 1 comprising the amino acid sequence of the mature protein.
3. An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an amino acid sequence derived from SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 6, 8 or 10.
4. The nucleic acid of claim 3 wherein the nucleotide sequence encodes the mature protein.
5. The nucleic acid of claim 4 comprising the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID: NO 1, 3, 5, 7 or 9.
6. A fusion protein comprising the polypeptide of claim 1.
7. A binding compound which specifically binds to the polypeptide of claim 1.
8. The binding compound of claim 7 which is an antibody or antibody fragment.
9. The binding compound of claim 8 wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.
10. An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 3.
11. A host cell comprising the vector of claim 10.
12. A process for recombinantly producing a polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of claim 11 under conditions in which the polypeptide is expressed.
13. A method for detecting a specific nucleic acid sequence in a sample, said method comprising the steps of:
  - (i) contacting a sample suspected to contain a specific nucleic acid sequence with a probe comprising a nucleic acid sequence comprising at least 8 consecutive nucleotides

selected from SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, 5, 7, or 9 under conditions in which a hybrid can form between said probe and the specific nucleic acid in said sample; and

(ii) detecting any hybrid formed in step (i),

wherein detection of said hybrid indicates the presence of the specific nucleic acid sequence in said sample.

14. The method of claim 13 further comprising amplifying said specific sequence in said sample prior to said detecting step.

15. A method for detecting a specific antigenic component in a sample, said method comprising the steps of:

(i) contacting a sample suspected to contain a specific antigenic component encoded by an amino acid sequence derived from SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 6, 8, or 10 with an antibody specific for said component, under conditions in which a stable antigen-antibody complex can form between said antibody and said antigenic component in said sample; and

(ii) detecting any antigen-antibody complex formed in step (i),

wherein detection of an antigen-antibody complex indicates the presence of said antigenic component in said sample.

16. A method of screening for candidate therapeutic agents comprising:

selecting as a target sequence a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence derived from SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 6, 8 or 10;

contacting a test compound with said target sequence; and

selecting as candidate therapeutic agent those test compounds which bind to the target sequence.